

Message Text

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63/42

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NEAE-00

INRE-00 USIE-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

OMB-01 AID-05 JUSE-00 OPR-02 A-01 OC-05 CCO-00 CU-02

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03 PC-01 /110 W
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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0067

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DACCA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY

AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY

AMCONSUL BOMBAY PRIORITY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL MADRAS PRIORITY

USLO PEKING

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NEW DELHI 9777

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (FOR SECTION INFO)

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, IN
SUBJ: CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION

REF: NEW DELHI 9718

SUMMARY: THE PRINCIPAL NEWS TODAY WAS THE OPENING OF THE MONSOON SESSION OF THE PARLIAMENT. ALL IS APPARENTLY PROCEEDING ACCORDING TO THE GOVERNMENT'S PLAN. THE RULES OF BOTH HOUSES WERE SUSPENDED, THUS ELIMINATING EVERYTHING BUT GOI BUSINESS. AGRICULTURAL MINISTER JAGJIVAN RAM, WHOSE LOYALTY TO THE PRIME MINISTER HAD BEEN QUESTIONED, INTRODUCED THE GOVERNMENT'S RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PROCLAMATION OF EMERGENCY. HE SAID IT WOULD NOT BE LIFTED UNTIL THEY WERE SURE THERE WOULD BE NO MORE DISTURBANCES IN THE COUNTRY. THE GOI IS EXPECTED TO INTRODUCE A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PRECLUDING RESORT TO THE COURTS TO CHALLENGE THE STATE OF EMERGENCY. THE GOI IS ALSO EXPECTED TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO EXTEND THE CURRENT LIFE OF THE KERALA LEGISLATURE, A PROCEDURE WHICH WAS USED ONLY ONCE BEFORE. ALL THE OPPOSITION PARTIES ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE PARLIAMENTARY SESSION. THE DMK DECIDED TO ATTEND ON THE BASIS OF THE PARTY'S PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED POSITION CONDEMNING THE EMERGENCY. WE UNDERSTAND THE RANK AND FILE OF THE DMK WANT THE PARTY TO TAKE A STRONGER STAND AGAINST THE EMERGENCY. THE PARTY IS SAID TO BE HOLDING DAILY MEETINGS THROUGHOUT THE STATE TO EXPLAIN ITS POSITION. IN TWO MEETINGS, MRS GANDHI HAS GIVEN THE FIRST PUBLIC INDICATION OF WHERE THE INDIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM MAY BE HEADNG. SHE SAID THAT THERE COULD BE NOR RETURN TO THE SITUATION PREVAILING BEFORE THE EMERGENCY WAS PROCLAIMED. SHE AGAIN HAS COMPLAINED OF FOREIGN CRITICS -- THE SAME PEOPLE WHO PRAISED CHINA AND YAHYA KHAN. BOMBAY HAS BEEN THE SCENE OF SMALL DEMONSTRATIONS, RESULTING IN A FEW ARRESTS. THERE ARE PLANS FOR DEMONSTRATIONS THROUGHOUT MAHARASHTRA DURING THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF AUGUST. SMALL DEMONSTRATIONS ARE ALSO BEING HELD DAILY IN THE CAPITAL OF GUJARAT, AHMEDABAD. THERE IS CONFIRMATION OF THE REPORT THAT THE OPPOSITION COMMITTEE OF GUJARAT

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IS PLANNING A DEMONSTRATION ON JULY 26 IN WHICH THE MEMBERS OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT INCLUDING THE CHIEF MINISTER ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE. THERE ARE PREDICTIONS OF VIOLENCE IN GUJARAT IF THE GOI ATTEMPTS TO IMPOSE PRESIDENT'S RULE THERE. STUDENT UNION ELECTIONS HAVE BEEN POSTPONED IN DELHI UNIVERSITY WHICH CONTINUES QUIET. THE WEST BENGAL CONGRESS PARTY HAS NOW RESPONDED FAVORABLY TO THE CPI'S PLEAS FOR JOINT

PROGRAMS. WE EXPECT BOTH PARTIES TO HOLD JOINT RALLIES.
END SUMMARY.

1. WHEN PARLIAMENT OPENED JULY 21, THE LOWER HOUSE (LOK SABHA), ACCORDING TO A GOVERNMENT WIRE SERVICE RELEASE, WAS PACKED WITH THE PRESS AND DIPLOMATIC GALLERIES FULL. (WE DID NOT ATTEND TODAY.) THE PRIME MINISTER WAS IN HER USUAL CHAIR. THE FIRST ITEM OF BUSINESS WAS THE SUSPENSION OF THE RULES TO LIMIT THE SESSION TO TRANSACTING GOVERNMENT BUSINESS, THUS ELIMINATING PRIVATE BILLS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR. THIS PASSED THE LOK SABHA 301 TO 76 AND THE RAJYA SABHA BY 147 TO 32. AGRICULTURAL MINISTER JAGJIVAN RAM MOVED THE RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL OF THE PROCLAMATION OF EMERGENCY. HE CHARGED THE NON-CPI OPPOSITION WITH SUBVERTING DEMOCRACY AND SAID THE EMERGENCY WOULD LAST UNTIL THEY WERE SURE THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE ANY MORE DISTURBANCES IN THE COUNTRY. (COMMENT: ADDRESSEES WILL RECALL THAT RAM'S LOYALTY TO THE PRIME MINISTER HAD BEEN CALLED INTO QUESTION. HIS PRESENT ROLE IN THE PARLIAMENT COULD BE READ AS HIS WAY OF PROVING HIS LOYALTY.)

2. THE WIRE SERVICE ADVISED ITS SUBSCRIBERS THAT ONLY OFFICIAL SPEECHES AND STATEMENTS, NAMES OF PARTICIPANTS AND THE OUTCOME OF VOTES COULD BE REPORTED.

3. THE PRESS REPORTED THAT THE GOI WILL INTRODUCE AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION TO ELIMINATE RESORT TO THE COURTS TO CONTEST THE PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY (ARTICLE 352 OF THE CONSTITUTION). OTHER CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS RELATING TO THE POWERS OF THE PRESIDENT, THE GOVERNORS AND CONFIDENTIAL

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ADMINISTRATORS OF CERTAIN UNION TERRITORIES TO ISSUE ORDINANCES WHEN THE LEGISLATURES ARE NOT IN SESSION WILL ALSO REPORTEDLY BE INTRODUCED.

4. INCLUDED IN THE AGENDA FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY SESSION IS A GOI RESOLUTION TO EXTEND THE LIFE OF THE CURRENT KERALA STATE LEGISLATURE BY AN ADDITIONAL SIX MONTHS. ELECTIONS WERE TO BE HELD IN SEPTEMBER SO AS TO SEAT THE NEW LEGISLATURE IN OCTOBER. THE ONLY OTHER TIME THE LIFE OF A STATE LEGISLATURE HAS BEEN EXTENDED WAS IN 1965 FOR ORISSA.

5. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE OPPOSITION MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT FROM THE JANA SANGH, CONGRESS (O), BLD, SOCIALIST, DMK, AND CPM PARTIES, WHO MET IN NEW DELHI

JULY 20, DECIDED TO ATTEND THE PARLIAMENTARY SESSION
WHCIH BEGAN ON JULY 21. THE SMALL REVOLUTIONARY
SOCIALIST PARTY ALSO DECIDED TO ATTEND. THE DMK HAD
PREVIOUSLY MET ON JULY 18 IN MADRAS AND DECIDED TO
ATTEND THE PARLIAMENT ON THE BASIS OF THE PARTY'S
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE EMER-
GENCY. THE DMK MPS DECIDED NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY
AGITATIONS APPARENTLY TO AVOID GIVING THE PRIME
MINISTER AN EASY PRETEXT FOR MOVING AGAINST THEM.
DMK LEADERS CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT SOME OF THEIR
MPS WILL BE ARRESTED IN DELHI. (RAJYA SABHA CHAIR-
MAN B.D. JATTI TOLD THE MPS AT THE OPENING SESSION
THAT HE COULD NOT GUARANTEE THEM PROTECTION OUTSIDE
THE PRECINCTS OF THE HOUSE.)

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O P 211312Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0068

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY

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AMCONSUL BOMBAY PRIORITY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL MADRAS PRIORITY
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6. TAMIL NADU CHIEF MINISTER IN A SPEECH AT A DMK
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PUBLIC MEETING IN MADRAS JULY 20 STATED THAT DMK MPS
WOULD OPPOSE THE EMERGENCY AND CALL FOR THE RELEASE OF
ARRESTED OPPOSITION LEADERS IN THE PARLIAMENTARY
SESSION.

7. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE RANK AND FILE OF THE DMK WANT
ITS LEADERSHIP TO TAKE A STRONGER STAND AGAINST THE
EMERGENCY. THE PARTY IS REPORTEDLY HOLDING ABOUT 250
MEETINGS DAILY IN THE VILLAGES AND TOWNS THROUGHOUT THE
STATE TO EXPLAIN
ITS POSITION ON THE EMERGENCY. THE
DMK GOVERNMENT IN MADRAS IS BELIEVED TO BE USING THE
PREVENTIVE DETENTION POWERS UNDER THE EMERGENCY TO
ARREST SOME OF THEIR ADMK OPPONENTS UNDER THE PRETEXT
THAT THEY ARE ANTI-SOCIAL ELEMENTS.

8. IN A MEETING WITH THE STATE LABOR MINISTERS ON
JULY 19 AND AT A MEETING OF THE CONGRESS PARLIAMENTARY
PARTY JULY 20, MRS GANDHI GAVE HER FIRST PUBLIC INDICA-
TION OF WHERE THE INDIAN POLITICAL SYSTEM WAS HEADING.
COMMENTING ON THE POSSIBILITY OF RETURNING TO "NORMALCY,"
SHE SAID THAT WHAT EXISTED BEFORE THE EMERGENCY COULD
NOT BE CONSIDERED NORMAL, AND, THEREFORE, THE COUNTRY
COULD NOT RETURN TO THAT SITUATION, WHICH SHE CHAR-
ACTERIZED AS ONE OF "LICENSE."

9. IN HER REMARKS TO THE STATE LABOR MINISTERS, MRS.
GANDHI AGAIN COMPLAINED OF FOREIGN CRITICS. SHE SAID
THEY WERE THE SAME PEOPLE WHO PRAISED CHINA AND YAHYA
KHAN, AS THOUGH THEY WERE DEMOCRATIC MODELS.

10. BOMBAY WAS THE SCENE OF SMALL PROTEST DEMONSTRA-
TIONS ON JULY 18 AND 19 RESULTING IN SEVERAL ARRESTS.
HOWEVER, ON THE 21ST A CROWD OF 6-7,000 GARLANDED A

STATUE OF TILAK (A MAHARASHTRAN HERO OF THE FREEDOM MOVEMENT). WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE PLANS FOR DEMONSTRATIONS TO BE HELD IN ABOUT 100 PLACES IN MAHARASHTRA DURING THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF AUGUST. THE CPM, WHICH THUS FAR HAS ABSTAINED FROM PARTICIPATING IN MOST OPPOSITION ACTIVITIES, IS NOW UNDERSTOOD TO BE COORDINATING WITH THE BOMBAY OPPOSITION GROUPS INCLUD-
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ING THE JANA SANGH, CONGRESS (O), SOCIALIST, AND SARVODAYA PARTIES.

11. A.N. BUCH, HEAD OF THE PRINCIPAL TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION IN GUJARAT (TEXTILE LABOR ASSOCIATION), TOLD EMBOFF THAT, EXCEPT FOR A WILDCAT STRIKE IN THE TEXTILE MILLS OF AHMEDABAD, GUJARAT HAS BEEN RELATIVELY QUIET SINCE THE STATE OF EMERGENCY WAS PROCLAIMED. SUCH EXPLAINED THAT THE TEXTILE LABOR ASSOCIATION DID NOT OFFICIALLY CALL THE STRIKE BUT WAS IN FACT RESPONSIBLE FOR IT. THE UNION WANTS TO AVOID A CONFRONTATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT BUT AT THE SAME TIME PROVOKED THE STRIKE TO SHOW THE GOVERNMENT IT DID NOT HAVE LABOR'S SUPPORT. BUCH ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT MOST INDUSTRIAL WORKERS WERE INDIFFERENT TO WHAT WAS HAPPENING AND, MOREOVER, CONTINUED TO HAVE GREAT REVERENCE FOR MRS GANDHI.

12. BUCH SAID THAT "SATYAGRAHAS" WERE BEING STAGED ALMOST DAILY IN AHMEDABAD WITH ABOUT FIVE TO 10 PERSONS BEING ARRESTED EACH TIME. HE SAID THE OPPOSITION HOPES TO FILL THE JAILS WITH 500,000 PROTESTERS BUT THAT HE PERSONALLY DOUBTED THIS WOULD BE ACHIEVED. BUCH CONFIRMED (REFTEL) THAT THE LOK SANGHARSH (OPPOSITION) COMMITTEE OF GUJARAT WAS PLANNING A DEMONSTRATION ON JULY 26. HE BELIEVES THAT THE CHIEF MINISTER AND MINISTERS OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT WILL ALL PARTICIPATE. (THE GUJARAT LABOR MINISTER IS A FORMER OFFICE BEARER OF THE TEXTILE LABOR ASSOCIATION). THE JANA SANGH HAS BEEN URGING A MORE ACTIVE ANTI-EMERGENCY POSITION BY THE GUJARAT JANATA FRONT WHILE CONGRESS (O) PREFERS TO AVOID A CONFRONTATION WITH THE GOI. AS FOR THE FUTURE, BUCH, ONE NOT USUALLY GIVEN TO EXAGGERATION, SAID THAT THERE WOULD BE BLOOD IN THE STREETS IF THE GOI ATTEMPTED TO IMPOSE PRESIDENT'S RULE IN GUJARAT.

13. BUCH STATED THAT, ACCORDING TO AN AHMEDABAD LAWYER WHO HAD VISITED WITH MORARJI DESAI RECENTLY, THE LATTER IS NOT ON A HUNGER STRIKE ALTHOUGH HE HAD SUCCESSFULLY THREATENED ONE SHORTLY AFTER HIS IMPRI-

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SONMENT IN ORDER TO OBTAIN ACCESS TO NEWSPAPERS.

14. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THREE NEWSPAPERS IN GUJARAT HAVE BEEN WARNED FOR INFRINGING CENSORSHIP REGULATIONS. EIGHT PERIODICALS HAVE BEEN CLOSED IN INDORE (MADHYA PRADESH) "FOR IRREGULARITY AND VIOLATION OF PRESS AND REGISTRATION OF BOOKS ACT."

15. IN A FURTHER ATTEMPT TO DEPOLITICIZE DELHI UNIVERSITY, THE COLLEGE PRINCIPALS REPORTEDLY DECIDED TO POSTPONE INDEFINITELY STUDENT UNION ELECTIONS. THE PRINCIPALS REPORTEDLY ALSO ADOPTED OTHER RULES TO TIGHTEN UP DISCIPLINE AND ATTENDANCE. THE CAMPUS ITSELF CONTINUES QUIET.

16. MADHYA PRADESH MAY HOLD THE ALL-INDIA RECORD FOR THE NUMBER OF ARRESTEES FOLLOWING THE PROCLAMATION OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY. A KNOWLEDGABLE MP TOLD US THAT AT LEAST 4,000 PERSONS ARE BEING HELD IN THAT STATE WITH MEMBERS OF THE JANA SANGH AND RSS BEING APPREHENDED VIRTUALLY INDISCRIMINATELY IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE STATE. HE SAID THAT ALMOST ALL OF THE ARRESTS WERE POLITICAL.

17. RESPONDING TO THE WEST BENGAL CPI'S PLEAS FOR JOINT PROGRAMS, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE WEST BENGAL CONGRESS PARTY, JULY 20-21, DECIDED TO "COOPERATE AND LAUNCH JOINT ACTIONS WITH THE CPI ON THE BASIS OF THE (PRIME MINISTER'S) 21-POINT (ECONOMIC) PROGRAM AND OTHER SPECIFIC ISSUES INVOLVING THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE." WE BELIEVE JOINT CPI-CONGRESS PROGRAMS WILL CONSIST MAINLY OF HOLDING JOINT MEETINGS AND RALLIES, THE EFFECT OF WHICH WILL BE TO GIVE THE CPI A BROADER PUBLIC PLATFORM.

18. A CONGRESS PARTY STUDENT CONVENTION IN CALCUTTA ON JULY 18 ADOPTED A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR RESISTANCE AGAINST "THE CONSPIRACIES HATCHED BY THE COMMUNAL FASCIST AND RIGHT REACTIONARY FORCES IN COLLUSION WITH THE US IMPERIALISM AGAINST OUR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC."
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(THIS QUOTE IS FROM A PRESS ARTICLE WHICH DOES NOT

MAKE IT CLEAR WHETHER IT IS A DIRECT QUOTE FROM THE STUDENTS' RESOLUTION.)

19. THE WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER, S.S. RAY, IS REPORTED BY THE PRESS TO HAVE TOLD THE CONGRESS PARTY'S GENERAL COUNCIL ON JULY 20 THAT RIGHT REACTION AND FOREIGN AGENCIES CONSPIRED TO CREATE CONDITIONS OF DESTABILIZATION IN THE SUB-CONTINENT. HE CRITICIZED A SECTION OF THE WESTERN PRESS AND PRAISED THE SUPPORT GIVEN BY THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND THEIR PRESS. (COMMENT: RAY IS WIDELY RUMORED AS LIKELY TO COME TO DELHI AS THE NEW HOME MINISTER IN THE CABINET RESHUFFLE ALLEGEDLY SCHEDULED IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS.)
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